

LET'S GO !!!ED WHEELAN presents A
STUPENDOUS, SUPER-COLOSSAL
STORY OF CIRCUS LIFE -**BIG
TOP**

UNAWARE OF THE HOLDUP, JEFF GOT THE SHOW OFF THE LOT, AND THEN WALKED DOWN THE HILL TO THE CARS WITH "SILK"

ABSOLUTELY NOT, "SILK"! I WON'T SELL MY SHOW TO ANY WALL ST. CONCERN OR ANYBODY ELSE, BUT I'LL BE GLAD TO BUY OUT YOUR THIRD INTEREST IN IT!!

OH, NO, JEFF, I'M NOT SELLING EITHER, IF YOU'RE NOT!!

A LITTLE LATER IN JEFF'S PRIVATE CAR

WELL, SAM, WHERE'S JACK COYNE AND MAX FOX?!!

SEARCH ME, MISTAH JEFF DEY AIN'T COME IN HEAH T'NIGHT!

WHAT?!!

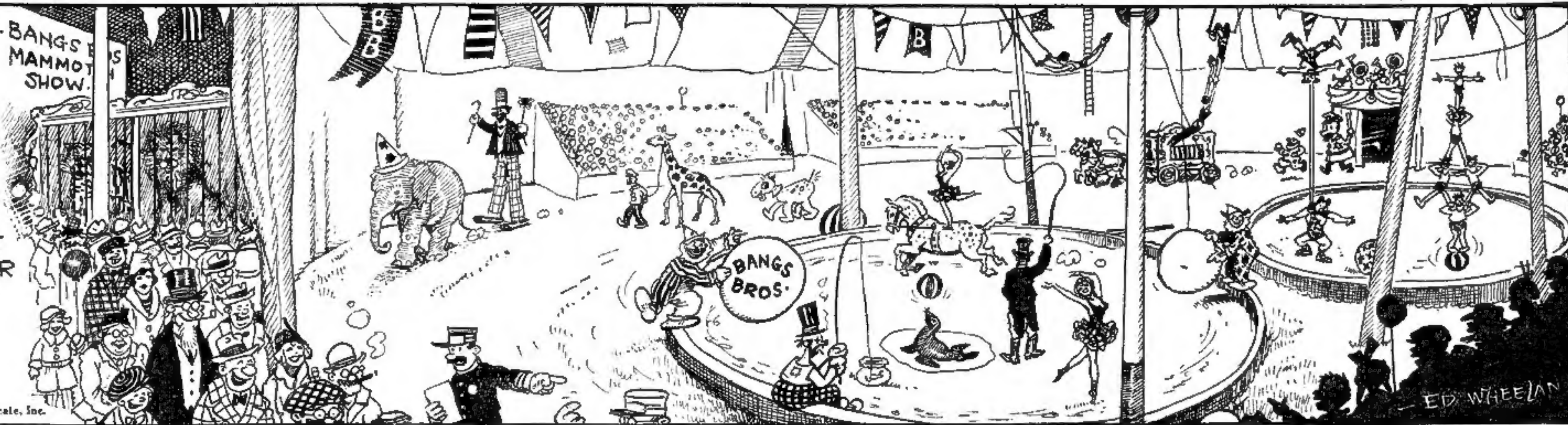
OUTSIDE THE CARS, JEFF RAN INTO HAL, MYRA, AND "RED"

SEE ANYTHING OF MY TREASURER AND LEGAL ADJUSTER?!!

NO, JEFF, WE'VE JUST BEEN UPTOWN FOR SOME SODAS! WHAT'S UP?!!

STEP
LIVELY,
FOLKS....
PLEASE
BE SEATED
AS QUICKLY
AS POSSIBLE
SO THAT
WE CAN GET
ON WITH OUR
STORY

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BANGS BROS. MAMMOTH SHOW HAD LAUNCHED ITS TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SEASON SUCCESSFULLY, BUT FROM THE VERY START SOMETHING SEEMED TO BE WRONG WITH **ALTA**, THE PERFORMING ELEPHANT

"I'M GOING TO SEE THAT WE GET RID OF THAT 'BULL' - SHE'S GOT A NASTY TEMPER!!"



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"**BUTCH**" SNYDER AND "**FLIP**" FLANAGAN, TWO OF THE CLOWNS, NERVOUSLY WATCHED THE PERFORMANCE OF THE HUGE BEAST. UP TO THIS SEASON SHE HAD ALWAYS BEEN AS GENTLE AS A LAMB

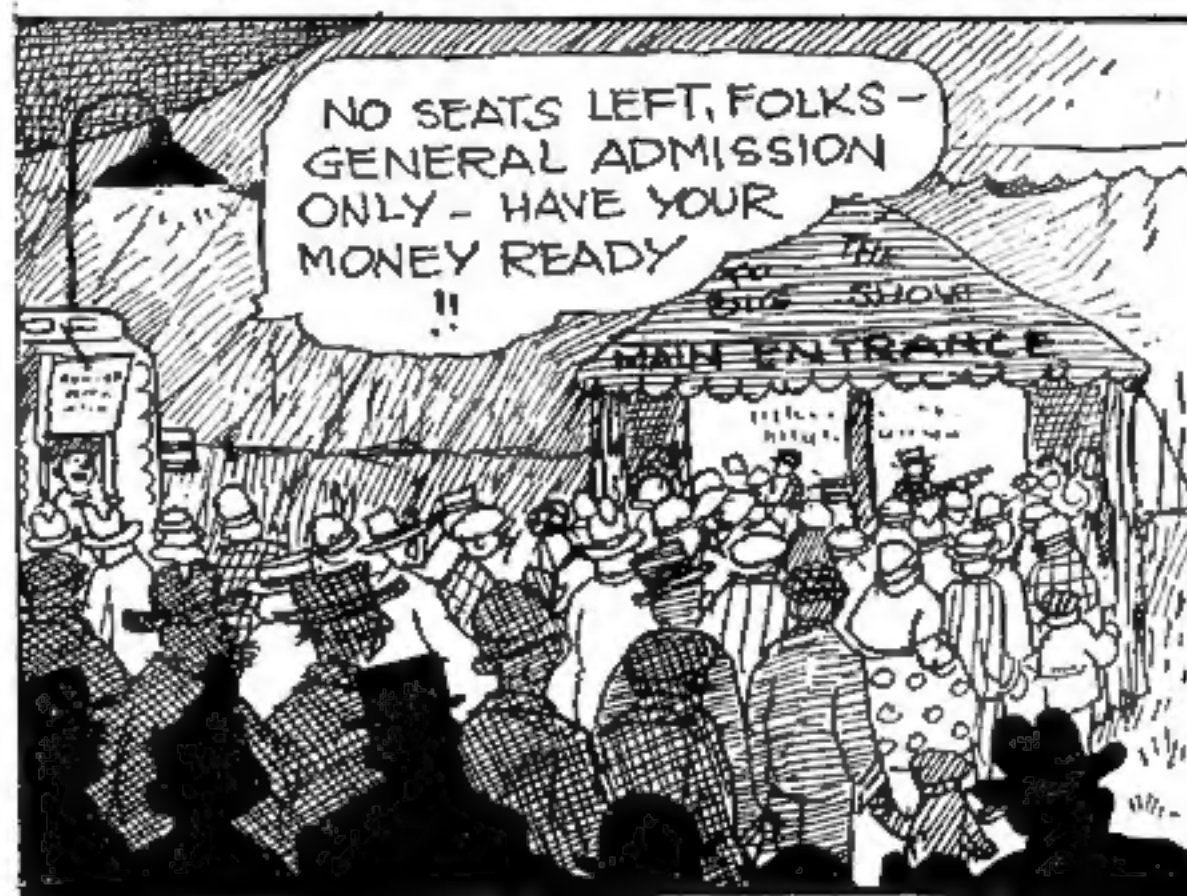
— ED WHEELAN —

GEE, I HOPE **ALTA** BEHAVES HERSELF, "**FLIP**"!!

SO DO I, "**BUTCH**"! WHAT DYA SPOSE HAS GOT INTO HER LATELY ?!!



THAT NIGHT THE CROWD WAS EVEN GREATER THAN AT THE AFTERNOON SHOW.



OH, HAL, WHAT A WONDERFUL CROWD TO PLAY TO - I JUST LOVE IT !!



YOU BET, MYRA, AND BELIEVE ME, THAT MOB IN THERE IS A FINE TRIBUTE TO JEFF BANGS' HONESTY AND SHOWMANSHIP - HE CERTAINLY MADE SHORT WORK OF THE STINGER BROS. OPPOSITION !!



MEANWHILE, "SILK" FOWLER HAD SLIPPED OUT OF THE "BIG TOP" AND WAS IN EARNEST CONVERSATION WITH TWO MYSTERIOUS STRANGERS



WHEN THE EVENING PERFORMANCE WAS OVER, JEFF WENT TO HIS TICKET WAGON -

ABOUT 10,000
ON THE DAY,
BOSS !!

THAT'S FINE, JACK!! PUT
IT IN THE BAG AND YOU
AND MAX TAKE IT DOWN
THE HILL TO MY CAR !!



I'LL SEE YOU LATER -
I'VE GOT TO GET THIS
SHOW OFF THE LOT AND
ALSO SEE "SILK" FOWLER!
HE SAID HE WANTED TO
SEE ME ABOUT SOMETHING
VERY IMPORTANT !!



-EDWHEELAN-

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SOON AFTERWARDS THE TREASURER AND LEGAL ADJUSTER STARTED ON THE SHORT TRIP TO THE TRAIN WHEN SUDDENLY....

STICK 'EM UP - DROP
THAT BAG - AN' GET
OVER IN THEM
BUSHES QUICK !!

